



# Good Agricultural Practices standards : a Way Towards Safe and Sustainable Agriculture?

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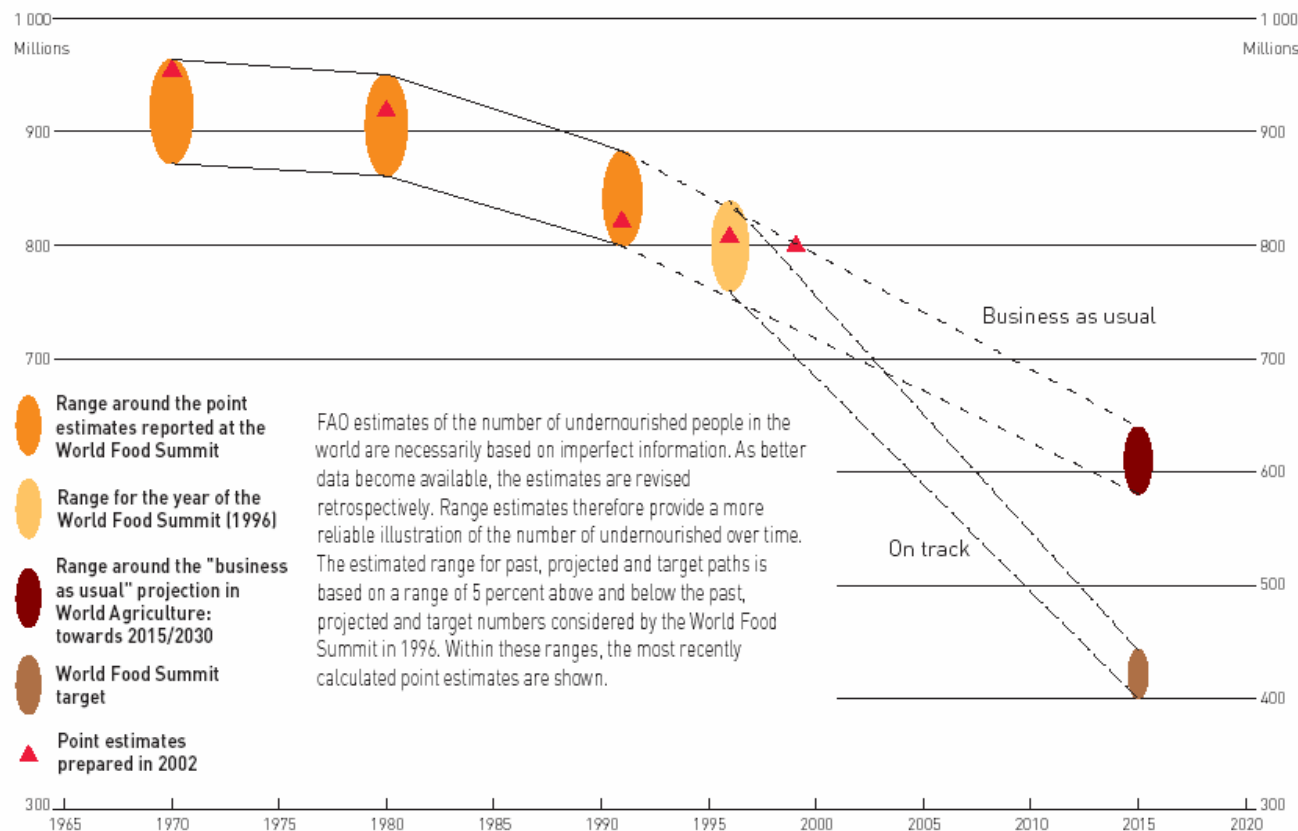


# 1. World Challenges



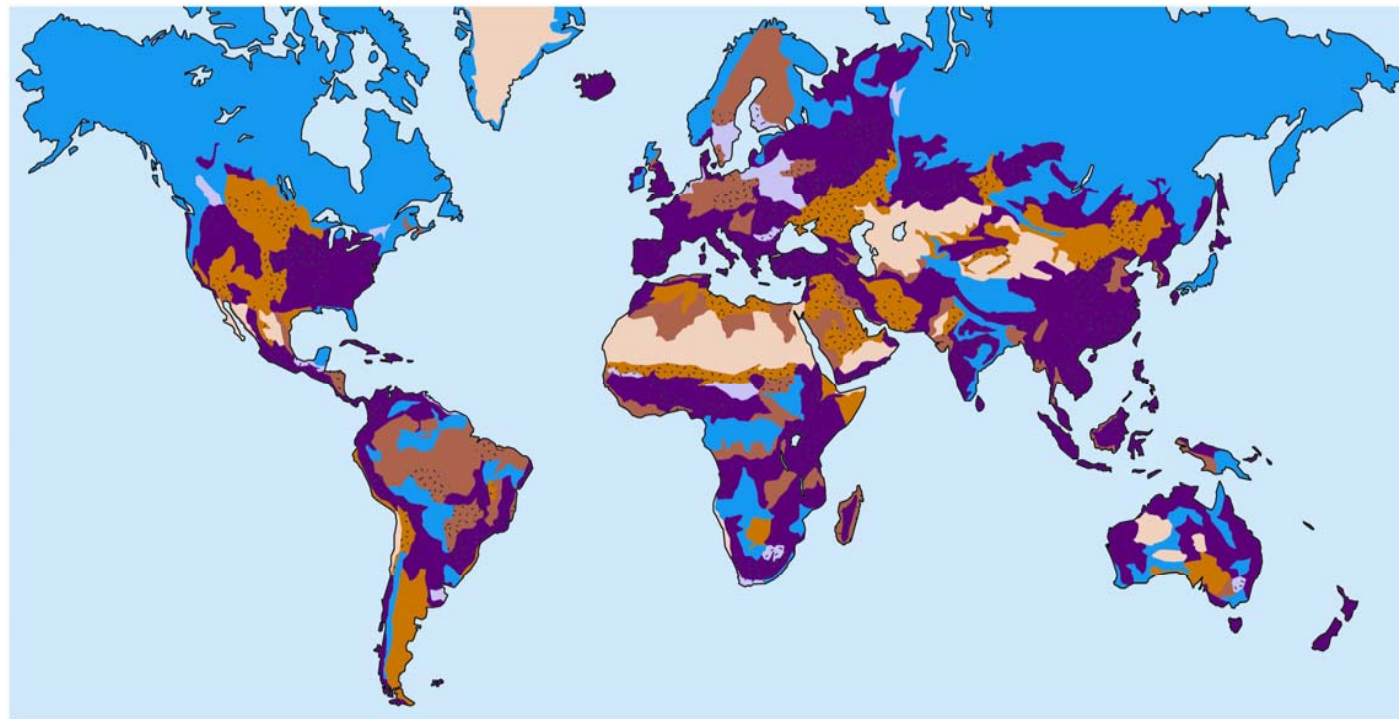
# Over 800 millions undernourished

**Number of undernourished in the developing world:  
observed and projected ranges compared with the World Food Summit target**





# Human-induced soil degradation in the world



## Soil degradation types

Water erosion

Wind erosion

Chemical deterioration

Physical deterioration

Severe degradation

## Other symbols

Stable terrain

Non-used wasteland

Water bodies



# Certification and standards of GAP

for whom... where do we want  
to go ?



# Agriculture challenge in the XXIst century

How to make agricultural systems  
in developing countries  
more sustainable, in a world where  
food supply chains  
are ever more globalized?



# Developments in Ag. Sector

- Demand by consumers, retailers, processors
  - Food safety, quality, nutrition
  - Environmental impact of agriculture
- Response by farmers adopting practices/codes
  - Improve livelihoods
- Support by governments and institutions
  - Regulations
  - Sustainable agriculture policies
  - Research, extension, education, credit, infrastructure



# GAP: evolution of concept

- For decades: extension and research guidelines on “good practices”
- More recent trend: GAP in food markets - growing number of “GAP” codes & standards - privatization of standards
- Renewed attention as entry point for food safety & quality in food chain





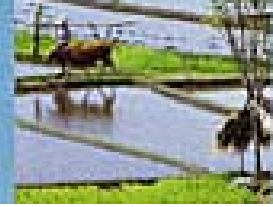
Simple assumption behind the multiplication of GAP standards...

Good production practices  
at farm level can make a  
big difference



# Can codes support sustainable ag.?

- **Private certification and standards** (e.g.: EUREP, retail...)
  - Competitive advantage - not all farmers can meet
  - Focus more on impact on product than on sustainability
- **Public legislation and policies** (e.g. : int'l, extension, research)
  - Society-driven – broader sustainability priorities
  - Int'l public good or local, small farmer-adapted
  - But lack financial resources
- **Fair trade, organic**
  - A mix of both
  - Provide capacity building. Environmental and social aspects
  - But market share may be limited in longer term



# Micro level

## Farmers incentives to adopt

- Economic: price premium, market access; access to inputs; stabilize yield, increase productivity, reduce losses, increase farm asset value...
- Regulatory/Legal: ascertain property rights to scarce resources; reduce liability...
- Human/social capital: expand skill sets, reduce community tensions...



... which means

... that farmers have many incentives to apply GAPs whether or not that gives them access to segregated markets or price premiums



## Micro level - Problems

- Too many standards and codes
- Opportunities, but hard for small farmers to meet standards (cost, investments, paperwork) & certification fees
- Not always a price premium
- Different scopes of GAP
- Are food safety/quality and food security/sustainability GAPs compatible or contradictory?



# Macro level - Challenges Facing Developing Countries

- ‘Traditional’ competitiveness factors (macroeconomic stability, productivity, logistics, reliability) haven’t gone away !
- ... they are frequently as/more important as standards in determining participation and outcomes
- Tightening/proliferation of standards coinciding with significant downward international price pressures
- Standards reinforce other strengths and weaknesses at production unit and supply chain levels



# Macro level - Challenges Facing Developing Countries(2)

- Alignment/harmonization with int'l/EU/US official standards is only a preliminary part of the challenge
- Private safety, quality, and social requirements typically more demanding and more consistently enforced than public SPS standards (both int'l and domestic)



## Macro level

### Special issues for poor/ very small countries

- Generally weak technical/admin capacities
- Lack of budgetary resources
- Difficulty of determining/prioritizing needs
- Little support from international buyers
- Exceptionally vulnerable to crisis
- Need regional arrangements ?





## **2. And FAO...? Development of a GAP Approach**



## a. Definition of a GAP approach

- addressing **economic, environmental** and **social** sustainability inclusive of **food safety and quality**
- **focusing on GAP-primary production** (whilst considering the supply chain and institutional context) more than GMP/GHP, etc
- taking account voluntary and regulatory aspects
- within a given incentive and agro-ecology context



## **b. “Global Principles of GAP”**

- Form 11 components of ag. practices
- Identify hazards to be avoided
- Identify outcomes to be promoted

= Provide a basis for the development of codes of practice for individual production systems



## c. Country level assistance

- Support translation of principles into locally appropriate practices and indicators
  - 1- Knowledge (policies, ag. practices, impacts)
  - 2- Facilitate multistakeholder negotiations on GAPs for a commodity/farming system
  - 3- Capacity building



### 3. Lessons learnt - Strategy

- *Be strategic:* some crops have more impacts and potential than others
- *Focus on improvement:* encourage innovation, not compliance
- *Focus on the most serious impacts:* 8-10 activities cause most environmental impacts
- *Be open:* not enough effort made to collect/adapt lessons from around the world



# Lessons learnt - Stakeholders

- Work with producers, consumers, markets and governments
- Work with drivers of change
- Farmers & communities create most GAPs
- 400 buyers are key: need to engage industry



# Lessons learnt - Incentives

- Target farmer incentives and disincentives when designing GAP programmes
- GAPs increase product quality & reduce risk; GAP can work without market incentives
- Most GAP pay for themselves, though not all
- Different agro-ecologies, institutional and market contexts = different GAP priorities



**...thank you for  
your attention**